

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /123 W

----- 012181

R 060859Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6486

INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MASERU 1493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, LT

SUBJECT: AAI CONFERENCE - AFRICAN-AMERICAN STATEMENT

1. DURING CLOSING SESSION OF AAI CONFERENCE, MASERU, DECEMBER 2, CONGRESSWOMAN YVONNE BURKE WAS GIVEN THE FLOOR TO READ A "STATEMENT OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE". CONGRESSWOMAN BURKE SAID THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN "TOTAL" CONSENSUS ON THE STATEMENT DUE TO THE RESTRICTIONS OF TIME. THE GROUP HAD, HOWEVER, ARRIVED AT A "SUBSTANTIAL CONSENSUS", SHE SAID. THE STATEMENT WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND STANDING APPLAUSE BY THE CONFERENCE

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PARTICIPANTS. IT WAS THE HIGH POINT OF AN EMOTIONAL DAY DURING

WHICH THE CONFERENCE INTER ALIA HAD HEARD FROM FIVE YOUNG SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT REFUGEES WHO WERE ALLOWED INTO THE CONFERENCE. THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT IS CITED BELOW.

2. QTE

STATEMENT OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS  
IN THE  
AFRICAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE  
MASERU, LESOTHO  
DEC. 2, 1976

INSPIRED BY THE FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND BY THE MOVING ACCOUNTS OF THE HORRORS OF THEIR DAILY STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN DECENCY, WE, AMERICANS OF AFRICAN DESCENT, WHO ARE ATTENDING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE IN LESOTHO, ARE UPLIFTED IN SPIRITUAL RENEWAL BY OUR PHYSICAL COMMUNION WITH THE LAND OF OUR FOREFATHERS.

THROUGHOUT THE DAYS OF THIS CONFERENCE, THE EXCHANGE WITH OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS CONFIRMS OUR RESOLVE TO TAKE VIGOROUS ACTION FOR POSITIVE POLICY CHANGES UPON OUR RETURN TO AMERICA.

WE HEREBY DECLARE OUR SOLEMN COMMITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM OF ACTION.

WE WILL MAKE KNOWN OUR CONCERNS AND COMMITMENT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION AND TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. TO THIS END, THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS WILL ENDEAVOR TO AUGMENT THE PRESENT EFFORTS RELATING TO AFRICA OF:

- A NATIONAL LOBY SEEKING ENLIGHTENED POLICIES REGARDING AFRICA
- THE NAACP TASK FORCE ON AFRICA
- THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
- THE BLACK COUNCIL ON AFRICA
- THE CAUCUS OF BLACK DEMOCRATS
- THE BLACK FORUM ON FOREIGN POLICY
- LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT ARE ORGANIZING SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INCREASING AWARENESS ABOUT

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AFRICAN ISSUES.

- THE BLACK AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH INCLUDES MAJOR BLACK INTEREST GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES AND WHICH PRODUCED THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN MANIFESTO ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

DESPITE OUR DETERMINATION TO EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE U.S. POLICY ON AFRICA, WE ARE MINDFUL OF CERTAIN CONSTRAINTS.

WE ARE A MINORITY IN AMERICA. TWENTY-FIVE MILLION BLACK AMERICANS SUFFER THE HIGHEST RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, EARN THE LOWEST AVERAGE SALARIES, AND CONTROL LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF THE ECONOMIC POWER OF THE UNITED STATES.

NEVERTHELESS, AFRICAN-AMERICANS HAVE A HISTORIC TRADITION OF SURVIVAL WHICH GUARANTEES THAT THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THOSE VITAL MATTERS AFFECTING THE LIFE AND WELFARE OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AROUND THE WORLD.

WITH GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE AN EXTENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, AFRICAN-AMERICANS CAN WORK TO REVERSE THE HISTORIC PATTERNS OF EXPLOITATION OF AFRICA AND AFRICAN PEOPLES. AFRICAN-AMERICANS HAVE FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH, THOUGH SMALL IN RELATION TO THE GREAT WEALTH OF AMERICA, ARE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A MEASURE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. JUST AS OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY GIVE OF THEIR WEALTH TO SUPPORT THEIR HOMELANDS, WE PLEDGE A GREATER EFFORT BY BLACK AMERICANS TO SUPPORT THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

WE AFRICAN-AMERICANS ARE IN A PECULIAR POWER POSITION BECAUSE WE ARE A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FORCE WITHIN THE NATION THAT HAS THE GREATEST POTENTIAL TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN AFRICA.

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BEYOND THIS, WE PLEDGE OUR SKILLS, OUR ENERGIES AND OUR RESOURCES TOWARD THE LIBERATION OF OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE HAVE AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO JOIN THE STRUGGLE WITH THEIR TALENTS, THEIR INTELLIGENCE, AND WITH SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE FIGHTING, SUFFERING AND DYING FOR FREEDOM.

YET, IT IS CLEAR THAT MORE EFFECTIVE RESULTS WILL BE ATTAINED WITH THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF BOTH AFRICANS AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS.

UPON RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES, THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS WILL PURSUE THE FOLLOWING NINE COURSES OF ACTION:  
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FIRST, WE WILL INTENSIFY OUR PRESENT PLANNING TO DEVELOP A FORCEFUL LOBBY ON AFRICA. THIS LOBBY WILL BUILD A BROAD-BASED CONSTITUENCY IN SUPPORT OF AFRICAN OBJECTIVES AND A RATIONAL U.S. POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA.

SECOND, THIS LOBBY WILL PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION, THROUGH WHICH AFRICANS AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS CAN COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY TO ACHIEVE DESIRED GOALS. THIS LOBBY WILL ALSO MONITOR NEWS RELEASES ON AFRICA AND SEEK A BALANCED AND ACCURATE FLOW OF AFRICAN NEWS.

THIRD, THROUGH THIS LOBBY WE WILL WORK TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD ACHIEVING THE ISOLATION OF THE APARTHEID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SUPPORT. WE WILL SEEK THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION, INCLUDING TAX DISINCENTIVES, AND APPROPRIATE EXECUTIVE ACTION TO DISCOURAGE OR PROHIBIT FURTHER INVESTMENT BY AMERICANS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY.

FOURTH, WE ARE INCENSED THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME, SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS ARE ISSUED VISAS ON AN OPEN AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS BY THE UNITED STATES, WHILE MANY AMERICANS ARE ARBITRARILY DENIED

VISAS TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AND THE RIGHT OF TRANSIT TO THE LAND-LOCKED KINGDOM OF LESOTHO WHICH IS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE DEMAND THAT ADMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICANS TO THE UNITED STATES BE ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS.

FIFTH, WE WILL SEEK TO INFLUENCE THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY IN THE UNITED NATIONS TOWARD SUPPORT OF THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE DEPLORE CURRENT U.S. POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO EFFECTIVE UNITED NATIONS ACTION ON AFRICA, AS REFLECTED BY THE U.S. ABSTENTIONS ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE TRANSKEI AND ADMISSION OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WE WILL INSIST THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IN VIEW OF ITS REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF U.N. RESOLUTIONS ORDERING IT TO CEASE ITS ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA.

SIXTH, WE WILL PRESS FOR THE EXTENSION OF INCREASED U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE AFRICAN NATIONS WHO SUPPORT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE FRONTLINE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER NATIONS WITH CONTINUED ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STRUGGLE.

SEVENTH, WE WILL PRESS FOR GREATER RECOGNITION THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM OF OPPRESSIVE MINORITY RULE AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND IS A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE.

EIGHTH, WE SUPPORT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA TO OVERTHROW THE OPPRESSOR BY THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS AVAILABLE TO THEM, INCLUDING, IF NECESSARY, FORCE.

NINTH, WITH RESPECT TO ALL OF AFRICA, WE SUPPORT THE EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

TO ASSURE THAT OUR CONCERNS ARE MET, WE SHALL SEEK TO INFLUENCE THE SELECTION OF FUTURE SECRETARIES OF STATE, THEIR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS AS WELL AS THE SELECTION OF INDIVIDUALS FOR OTHER POLICY MAKING POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES THROUGHOUT ALL OF AFRICA.

JUST AS WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO RENEWED EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF AFRICAN FREEDOM, WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN AFRICA TO SECURE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL AFRICAN PEOPLES BOTH IN THE MOTHERLAND AND THE DIASPORA. WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO THIS PARTNERSHIP. UNQTE.  
STOKES

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